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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO CORONER'S REPORT ON DEATHS CAUSED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Ontario Taking Action To Reduce Domestic Violence

TORONTO – The McGuinty government today reaffirmed its commitment to reducing violence against women as Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, responded to a report by the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee.

"I thank the Chief Coroner and the Domestic Violence Death Review Committee for a comprehensive and useful report," said Pupatello. "The report brings to life for all of us the devastating impact of domestic violence. Receiving the report, as we recognize Sexual Assault Prevention Month in Ontario, reminds us that we have much work to do."

The Domestic Violence Review Committee was established in December 2002 to review deaths caused by domestic violence and to make recommendations on preventing such deaths. The committee's first report was released in March 2004 and reviewed deaths that occurred in 2002. The report released today reviews deaths that occurred between 2002 and 2004.

Last December, the McGuinty government announced the Domestic Violence Action Plan to help prevent domestic violence. The four-year, $66 million plan responds to key recommendations in the committee's first report, and emphasizes early intervention, violence prevention and better coordination of supports for women and children at risk. Highlights of the plan include:

- $56 million to provide better community assistance for victims, including enhanced counseling services and second-stage housing supports
- $5.9 million to train front-line workers, professionals, families, neighbours and friends to recognize early signs of abuse and help women get the information and support they need
- A public education and prevention campaign, designed to change attitudes and mobilize communities to stop violence before it happens
- Improvements to Ontario's criminal and family justice system to better protect women and their children and hold abusers accountable for their violent behaviour.

"Domestic violence will not be tolerated in Ontario," said Pupatello. "Our government is working with our partners across the province to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, and help women and children live free of violence in their homes and communities. "

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